

US Army Corps of Engineers

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: JCB-200002150 EVALUATOR: Joyce Butler PHONE NO.: (601) 631-5294 FAX NO.: (601) 631-5459

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DATE: 23 April 2001 EXPIRATION DATE: 14 May 2001

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 30, Chapter 11, Part IV, Section 2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Permits Division, Post Office Box 82135, Baton Rouge, 70884-2135, and must reach these offices by the cited LΑ expiration date.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has additional information on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:

Dennis E. Woodward, P.E. Bossier Parish Police Jury Post Office Box 70 Benton, Louisiana 71006

Name of Agent

Theodore E. DeBaene, P.E. Owen and White, Incorporated Post Office Box 66396 Baton Rouge, Louisiana <u>Location of Work</u>: Section 11, T18N-R12W, latitude 32°33'38.5336", longitude 93°34'51.8472", within the Red River drainage basin, Bossier Parish, near Bossier City, Louisiana.

<u>Description of Work</u>: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to mechanically clear and fill wetlands for construction of a levee and to place excavated fill material within two channels in several locations along Fifi Bayou. The purpose of the project would be to alleviate flooding. This would be accomplished by providing a barrier to Fifi Bayou, increasing flood storage and pumping capacity for conveying local flows during high water, widening channels to reduce headwater flooding, and enlarging conduits under roads and driveways to reduce head loss. The following descriptions of the proposed project and its associated impacts are based on information provided by the applicant and site visits by Corps personnel.

The levee would be located between Fifi Bayou and Tall Timbers Subdivision. It would be approximately 4,112 feet long, with a height up to 12 feet to elevation 180 National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD), 12-foot top width, and 3:1 side slopes. The levee footprint and right-of-way would be mechanically cleared of scrub-shrub vegetation, with scattered mature trees. Approximately 60,000 cubic yards of earthen fill material would be obtained onsite for levee construction. Approximately 2.575 acres of wetlands would be mechanically cleared and filled within the footprint and right-of-way of the levee.

Work along the Tall Timbers Lateral ditch would consist of unregulated excavation within the channel (approximately 1,779 feet) and clearing and filling of approximately 0.3 acre (approximately 942 feet) of other waters of the United States for placement of culverts and backfill. Excavated material would be placed offsite or on the existing spoil bank.

Work along the Woodward Lateral ditch would consist of unregulated excavation (approximately 1,285 feet) and clearing and fill in approximately 0.08 acre (approximately 280 feet) of other waters of the United States for placement of culverts and backfill. Excavated material would be placed as a spoil bank in uplands adjacent to the ditch.

Approximately 85,000 cubic yards of earth would be excavated within 3 acres of the race track area for the sump, with 60,000 cubic yards used for levee construction and the remainder to be placed in an offsite upland location. The mechanical clearing and placement of dredged and/or fill material in wetlands and other waters of the United States associated with the project require a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

<u>State Water Quality Permit</u>: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Bossier Parish listed in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

<u>Flood Plain</u>: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section

404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

W. Harold Lee Team Leader

Evaluation Section



